

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-referenced application:

- 1           1.       (Currently amended)    A system for converting first and second  
2       signals representative of payload and supervisory information, respectively, between  
3       an electrical format and a WDM aggregated optical format, the system comprising:  
4                at least one first converter for converting said first signal between said  
5       electrical format and a first, disaggregated optical format communicating payload  
6       information,  
7                at least one second converter for converting said second signal between said  
8       electrical format and a second, disaggregated optical format communicating  
9       supervisory information,  
10              at least one optical WDM converter including a beam splitter that converts  
11       said first and second signals between said first and second disaggregated optical  
12       formats and said WDM aggregated optical format, and  
13       an optical connector aligned with the disaggregated optical format of at least  
14       one of the first converter and the second converter, the optical connector arranged to  
15       receive a reflected disaggregated optical format from the remaining converter,  
16       wherein ~~at least one of said at least one first converter, said at least one second~~  
17       ~~converter and said at least one optical WDM converter are in a hermetic enclosure and~~  
18       ~~wherein~~ said at least one first converter, said at least one second converter and said at  
19       least one optical WDM converter are integrated to a single self-contained module by  
20       means of signal propagation paths that are exempt from splices, ~~wherein~~ the beam  
21       splitter is aligned with ~~an~~ the optical connector for conveying said first and said  
22       second signals in said WDM aggregated optical format, ~~the system further~~  
23       ~~comprising:~~  
24                ~~a first focusing element interposed between said beam splitter and said optical~~  
25       ~~connector, and~~  
26                an optical isolator interposed between said beam splitter and said first focusing  
27       element.

1           2.     (Previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein said first  
2     converter and said second converter have associated signal processing electronics,  
3     said signal processing electronics being integrated to said single self-contained  
4     module, said signal processing electronics generating said first and said second signals  
5     representative of said payload and said supervisory information, in said electrical  
6     format.

1           3.-4.   (Canceled)

1           5.     (Previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein said beam  
2     splitter is arranged to define an optical signal reflection path between said second  
3     converter and said optical connector.

1           6.     (Previously presented)   The system of claim 5, wherein a second  
2     focusing element is interposed between said beam splitter and said second converter.

1           7.-8.   (Canceled)

1           9.     (Previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein said first  
2     converter and said second converter include laser sources driven with said first and  
3     said second signals in said electrical format, respectively, and wherein said optical  
4     WDM converter includes a WDM combiner to combine said first and said second  
5     signals in said first disaggregated optical format and said second disaggregated optical  
6     format to produce said WDM aggregated optical format, the system thus comprising a  
7     transmitter module.

1           10.    (Previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein said optical  
2     WDM converter includes a WDM splitter for de-multiplexing said WDM aggregated  
3     optical format into said first disaggregated optical format and said second  
4     disaggregated optical format, and wherein said first converter and said second  
5     converter include photoelectric converters for converting said first disaggregated

6 optical format and said second disaggregated optical format into said first and second  
7 signals in said electrical format, the system thus comprising a receiver module.

1 11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further including:  
2 a pair of said first converters in the form of a first laser source and a first  
3 photoelectric converter, respectively;  
4 a pair of said second converters in the form of a second laser source and a  
5 second photoelectric converter, respectively; and  
6 a pair of said optical WDM converters, in the form of a WDM combiner and a  
7 WDM splitter, respectively;  
8 such that said first laser source and said second laser source are arranged for  
9 converting a first pair of first and second signals representative of payload and  
10 supervisory information, respectively, from said electrical format into a first pair of  
11 first disaggregated optical format and second disaggregated optical format signals and  
12 said WDM combiner is adapted to convert said first pair of first and second  
13 disaggregated optical format signals into a first WDM aggregated optical format  
14 signal, and wherein said WDM splitter is adapted to convert a second WDM  
15 aggregated optical format signal into a second pair of first and second disaggregated  
16 optical format signals, and said first photoelectric converter and said second  
17 photoelectric converter are adapted to convert said second pair of first and second  
18 disaggregated optical format signals into a second pair of first and second signals  
19 representative of payload and supervisory information in said electrical format, the  
20 system thus comprising a transceiver module.

1 12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 6, wherein a third  
2 focusing element is interposed between said beam splitter and said first converter.